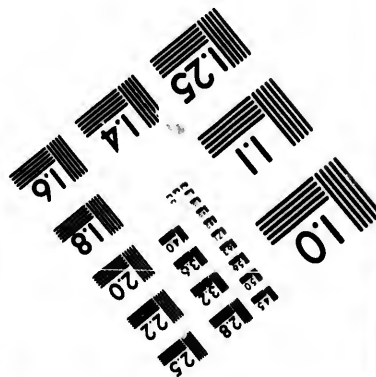
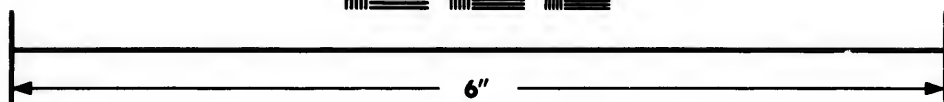
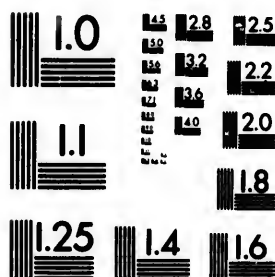


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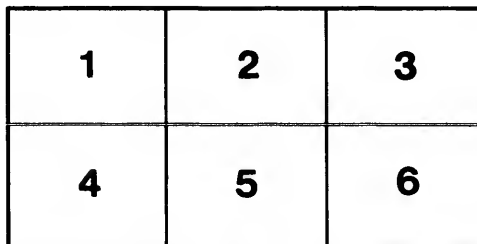
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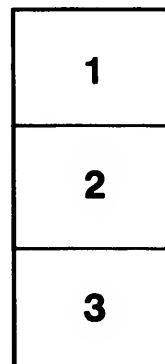
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MAJ

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MAJOR RICHARDSON'S

REPLY

TO

COLONEL WILLIAMS' GASCONADE.

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MAJOR RICHARDSON'S REPLY TO COLONEL WILLIAM'S GASCONADE.

Col. Williams terms certain placards which have appeared and which he indirectly attributes to me, "malicious libel," and "assassination of character." Let the public—let every honorable minded man determine, who is the real libeller and assassin; the man who secretly stabs your reputation, by going about from house to house, and from corner to corner, whispering away your fair name; or he who openly confounds the author of the base slander—the vile pander to his own execrable lust for defamation—with the infamy he deserves.

Undue importance is attached to the dates of these placards.—Since credit is given to me for having caused them to be posted, (and they appear to have been rendered imperative in order to counteract the effect of a slow and subtle poison,) it might also have been assumed, that notwithstanding they had been printed when first a knowledge of the distillation of the poisoner had been obtained, a due sense of what was customary on these occasions, had caused them to be withheld from the public eye until the party charged with it had been allowed an opportunity to deny or avow having shared in its circulation. The explanatory advertisements were only posted after the subjoined letter, which does not appear in Col. Williams' version of the original correspondence, had been returned through a Magistrate:

NOTE No. 5.

BROCKVILLE, Sept. 17, 1840.

SIR.—It having been stated to me by several parties that you have thought proper to assign as a reason for your conduct, on a recent occasion, an affair of honor in which I was engaged in Montreal, and in which you are stated to have said, I had misconducted myself. I wish to be informed by yourself, whether such reason was ever assigned by you.

I will not put you to the inconvenience of more than a simple affirmative or negative in reply.

J. RICHARDSON,
Major Late Spanish Service.

Lieut. Col. WILLIAMS,
Particular Service.

Mem. This last note was returned, opened, by a magistrate, on the 18th, on the same night Col. Williams was placarded as a slanderer.

Col. Williams sneeringly hints at never having met me in any decent society—I am free to admit, that I never had the honor of meeting him—not even at the humble tables of Lord Durham, Sir J. Culborne, or Sir Geo. Arthur. With the latter universally esteemed officer, by the way, I have had the honor of dining, since, as Col. Williams sates, I was publicly chastised in the streets of Montreal: I have, also, since then, dined with one of the most gentlemanly Corps of Officers in Her Majesty's Service. Both his Excellency and the Regiment to which I allude, must have felt especially honored, in admitting to their table, one whom they must have known, through the medium to which the veracious Col. Williams alludes, to have been publicly chastised, without a due attempt at vindication of his honor.

Col. Williams exultingly points out that "Major Richardson is an Officer in the Queen of Spain's Service, but not in the Queen of England's." It is fortunate for his veracity that the Gazette, announcing the sale of my Commission in the British Army, reached this on the morning after the party complained of. However, be this as it may, I can safely aver, that during the eight and twenty years that I held Her Britanic Majesty's Commission, and during my more limited Service with the Armies of the Queen of Spain, it has never been my misfortune to meet with one enjoying the same honor, who was capable of the conduct which has characterized this said Lieutenant Colonel **FREAK** Williams of the Particular Service—a Knight of Hanover,

But I cannot dwell upon the littleness of the man; let me rather advert to facts.

As mentioned by Col. Williams, the origin of the correspondence between himself and me, was a private card party, to which, with several other gentlemen, I was invited; but he has not fairly stated the case. The house may, or may not be a boarding house; I know nothing of the matter, farther than that the gentleman whose guest I was, had private and distinct apartments in it; therefore, no one, having any pretensions to be called a gentleman could have a right to assume the liberty of commenting on, or even being supposed to know what passed within. On the following morning Col. Williams thought proper, it appears, to complain of some annoyance, to which he pretended to have been subjected, and among other remarks said, alluding pointedly to me, "If Major Richardson wishes to keep a gambling house, he had better make one of his own," adding something even more offensive. I knew that he had had the insolence to write this letter to Colonel Hill as a sort of report. Thus, it will be perceived, Col. Williams had given me serious grounds for offense, and hence my first communication to him which was rendered even more pungent from my knowledge of his impertinent and uncalled for allusion to my name—He says truly enough, that he did not know me—that very circumstance ought to have made him abstain from comment on, or mention of my name. Had this

been the case, I never should have troubled myself about any thing so insignificant.

The assertion made by Col. Williams, (in the first instance verbally, and now in his printed statement,) that his reason for not calling me out at the termination of that correspondence, was my having been publicly chastised in Montreal, is willfully false.—He is aware, and the public generally were aware, that in the fracas which occurred on the occasion to which he alludes, I was the assaulting party, and this in presence of Colonels Barnard and Crawford, of the Grenadier Guards, who were with me at the moment of the collision, and who finally separated my antagonist and myself. The correspondence which I subsequently had with Col. Ellison, commanding that corps, moreover proves, that “there was nothing in my *rencontre*” with the person named by Col. Williams, “to alter the favorable opinion or feelings of those Officers of the Regiment who had made my acquaintance.” With such testimony from the Commanding Officer of so distinguished a body as the Grenadier Guards—men moving in the first society in the world, and understanding fully the code of honor, it can import very little what opinion such a man as Col. Williams may form or pronounce.

But even assuming the correctness of the insinuation, that I had not been exonerated from blame in the affair to which he has alluded, consistency demanded that Col. Williams should not have offended me in the first instance; or doing so, that he should have persevered in the view he pretends originally to have taken. If I was not in a condition then to meet him, I was not more so afterwards. But Col. Williams holds a commission in the British Service. Hence the necessity for adopting a desperate step to screen his own character for courage, and yet avoid a personal encounter. My own decided impression is, (and it must be that of every reasoning being,) that in proposing four paces—a distance without precedent in the usages of duelling—and English duelling especially—he was actuated by the conviction that his proposal would not be accepted.

Were it not that the subject is of too grave a nature to be treated lightly, one would be inclined to laugh at the gasconade of the Colonel. “Hould me, or I’ll be at him,” says the Irishman, “Hould me, or I’ll be at him,” hirts Col. Williams to his friend Capt. Shaw. “Four paces my boy—five if he hesitates; but not one foot farther back. Blood and wounds man, keep him to the point.” How fee-fo-fummish!

By the way, it is curious enough that Capt. Shaw makes no mention of the Colonel’s magnanimity, in allowing me one pace more. Could it be that the five paces were thought of, after the four had been pronounced an assassin’s distance? and should not the letter No. 1, which appears in the statement, come after No. 6?

There is an evident anxiety to show that my friend Col. Grant had not decided upon refusing four paces when first proposed to him, and that his change of opinion was occasioned by his consultation with me. This,

Col. Grant has most positively denied. He admits that after he had given his final answer to Capt. Shaw, he observed jocosely, that if two men chose to go out at four paces, they might please themselves, but he would have nothing to do with the affair. Had Col. Grant decided upon any such distance, I of course, being in his hands must have bowed to his decision; but I have not the slightest objection, that the whole world should know that I should have done so most reluctantly, and under a very strong protest. If Col. Williams' position can gain anything by this admission he is welcome to it.

Seriously however, if he had really entertained the strong desire for going out which he seeks to convey, Col. Williams never would have limited himself to four paces. A man injured as he pretends to have been, (he has not adverted to the greater injury he had inflicted, as far as in him lay, upon another,) would have had his opponent out on any terms. If refused four paces, (and there was no probability of any man acting in the capacity of a second, suffering him to dictate such a distance,) he would gladly have accepted the ten offered to him, and insisted upon remaining on the ground until one or the other had fallen. He has stated in most formidable Italics at the close of his rhodomontade, that the "chances of a ball passing through a man's body at four paces is pretty certain." This is an unnecessary truism, but it is also nearly as certain that such result would ensue from a meeting at ten paces, unless the parties are very great bunglers indeed. This cannot be the case with Col. Williams, for his friends have been industrious in reporting that he is a most excellent shot.

The fact is obvious enough—Col. Williams has gladly availed himself of the only chance he had of backing out of an affair into which nothing but desperation had plunged him, and for embarking in which, he had evidently no other view than to save appearances. If, as he facetiously observe I am a writer of fiction, I yield to him all the honor of being a fictitious fighter.

As he however remarks, Col. Williams belongs to a profession, the members of which will have an opportunity of discriminating between resolution and bombastic display, and how far he has conducted this affair in the manner expected of a British Officer. The reason given by him for proposing four paces, is so absurd and inconsistent, that few will take the satisfied view of his conduct that he affects to entertain himself.

The interest Col. Williams professes to have taken in the *inexperienced* young Officers to whom he alludes in his statement, (neither of them in their minority by the way,) was kind and paternal, but it was also gratuitous. The only one of these under his immediate command, I can safely aver, evinced anything but *inexperience* on the only two occasions in which as Colonel Williams significantly states, he had been similarly engaged in company with me. The other, a highly gentlemanly and honorable young man, belongs to a distinct department. Apropos of advice however. Was Col. Williams always so profuse of moral counsel to inexperienced young men and under every circumstance that was brought under his *immediate* notice? O Tittlebat Titmouse! O Joseph Surface! most prominent actor in the "School of scandal!"

Finally, the vulgar innuendo, and he can deal in no other language than that of vulgarity, in which Col. Williams has thought proper to indulge against the Spanish Service, I, as an Officer in that Service fling back upon him with the scorn and contempt they merit. But why break a fly upon the wheel?

J RICHARDSON,
Knight of the Spanish Military Order of Saint Ferdinand.

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RDSON,
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POSTSCRIPT.

As the contemptible character who figures so ridiculously in the above pages—naturally enough writhing under the severity of the lash he has provoked, and furious at the *expose* which has been given of his true motives of action in his late bombastic display of courage, has, since the publication, in the Brockville Statesman, of my reply to his *fanfaronade*, obtained, and is privately circulating a low and scurrilous placard, taxing me with the very same conduct which has been attributed to himself, it is necessary that the public should be informed that the placard in question bears the date of March 1839, and that it was in consequence of a threat to post it that the assault alluded to above, as having been made by me, took place. It is also necessary that the public should be reminded that I had been so threatened and placarded, not for refusing a challenge from the poster, but because I had declined to receive, as a second, a low person who had been sent to me in that capacity. As Colonel Williams, however, truly observes in his pamphlet, "no one is safe from the attacks of unprincipled men." I am thus circumstantial in this matter, because I am well aware of the cunning and meanness of the insignificant person who, incapable of the feeling or conduct of a gentleman, is again at his ignoble but familiar pursuit of secret slander. Yet this man is a British Officer.

J. R.

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